



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Sylvia Ortiz-Velez, 12th District

MEDIA ADVISORY for December 3, 2018, 10:00 AM

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Supervisor Ortiz-Velez to Oppose Wealth Test for Immigrants

Proposed Rule Change Would Expand Criteria for Denying Lawful Entry to U.S.

MILWAUKEE – At a press conference Monday, County Supervisor Sylvia Ortiz-Velez will declare her opposition to a proposed change in immigration policy and urge the public to submit comments to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) before a December 10 deadline.

Supervisor Ortiz-Velez will be joined by Congresswoman Gwen Moore, Mayor Tom Barrett, Tony Báez, Milwaukee Board of School Directors, and several other community leaders.

DHS proposed sweeping changes to a policy known as the "public charge" test in October. The public charge test currently allows the government to deny legal admission to the U.S. or lawful permanent resident ("green card") status only if that person is determined likely to depend on the government as their main source of financial support.

Historically, the criteria used when evaluating whether someone is likely to become a "public charge" are eligibility for or receipt of cash assistance programs that are intended to support people struggling with extreme poverty or hardship, such as Supplemental Security Income.

Among other dramatic changes, the DHS proposal would establish a new wealth test, allowing the government to deny legal entry or green card status to anyone with an income less than 250% of the poverty level (\$37,950 for an individual; \$63,000 for a family of four).

The proposal also expands criteria for denying legal entry by negatively weighting factors such as limited English proficiency, poor credit history, limited education, large family size, and age.

WHAT: Press conference on proposed change to federal "public charge" policy

WHEN: Monday, December 3, 10:00 AM

WHERE: UMOS, 2701 S. Chase Ave., Milwaukee. Boardroom.

WHO: Supervisor Sylvia Ortiz-Velez; Congresswoman Gwen Moore; Mayor Tom Barrett; Julian Adem, consul of Mexico in Milwaukee; Tony Baez, Milwaukee Board of School Directors; Luz Sosa, Citizen Action of Wisconsin; Carmen Cabrera

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